

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes February 11, 2016 7:00pm BOS meeting room

Present: MEMBERS: Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Andy Hughes, VChair; Hub Seward, Janet Urquhart. Excused: Kim Rimalover, Andy Seale

ALTERNATES: Eric Radloff, Rodney Dellafelice, Chris Costantino. Excused: Greg Boggis

Approval of January Meeting Minutes Approved unanimously on a motion by Hub, seconded by Eric.

Appointments

7:15 Dan Reed, Forester with New England Forestry Consultants, met with AndyH and Chris at Hitchiner on Feb. 1 to walk the area proposed for a timber harvest. This section of the forest is difficult to access from Mullen Road. Paul Amato, landowner to the west who is doing a timber harvest, has offered for the commission to use his landing and skid trails. Dan Reed told the commission that there isn't a bad option for managing the forest in this area. This is not a very productive site due to shallow soils. If we do nothing, we retain the high density of cavity trees which are prime wildlife habitat. If we do a limited/selective cut, we will create views and open the area for early successional forest habitat and the associated wildlife. The commission needs to decide what it would like to accomplish. Dan spoke with Don Hardwick, who is doing the logging for Paul Amato. DW expects to be logging the abutting Amato piece in May/June, which gives the commission some time to consider what type and intensity of timber harvest we want. This is a very difficult site to grow trees due to the shallow soil and prevalent ledge. This keeps the undergrowth at bay and the forest relatively open.

AndyH suggested that, in early spring, we take a good long look at the proposed management area and its context. He would like to flag an area and trees to cut so that we can visualize what a seed tree cut would look like. A seed tree cut would leave 1-5 trees/acre, creating an early successional habitat and open up views to the east.

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. Deliberative session	Brown access across Falcon Ridge Open placed on the warrant without amendment or discussion Hitchiner Easement – an attempt was made to amend the limit of the easement to 25 years. This was defeated. K Federico (BOS) has retracted his vote to support this warrant article. Land Fund – no amendment to the request for \$20,000 Brox excavation – AndyH offered a couple of amendments to include the commission in the review process and the NRI document as one of the documents to guide any work done at Brox. Both were defeated.	
2. Promotion of Warrant Articles	Letters to the Editor to be submitted by Feb 29 Chris will set up display for the Middle School Voting Day	Andy H will write an LtE about the warrant articles. Audrey will write an LtE concerning the Brox warrant article. Need to be submitted by February 29. Chris send out a schedule for members to stand with the display on voting day
3. 4 th Saturday hike	a. January Hike at Brox – Audrey led a moonlight hike for about 5 people. Very icy but beautiful. Saturday morning there were about 10 hikers. b. February Hike – AndyH will lead the hike at Hitchiner on February 27	

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4. Easements for Autumn Oak subdivision	All the easements are complete. The open space will be deeded to the town.	Take this off the agenda – task complete!
5. Wetland Ordinance	House Bill 349 is no longer active. The NH Assn of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) will present their report of wetland buffers study at the end of the month	Chris and Fred Elkind will check the 2016 Legislative Calendar for any bills that address wetlands or buffers
6. Mitigation Projects	Lori Sommer from NH DES Wetland Mitigation Department presented information regarding the ARM fund at a workshop in Brookline. She said that we ought to have identified projects for applicants to offer to mitigate their wetland impacts to a site.	We need to identify/prioritize some mitigation projects for the Hammers to present in their wetland permit application for the site of their dealership on Hammond Road. Possible work session?
7. Brown Access and Conservation Easements	The Browns' attorney offered a draft CE for their property. It included the right to have agriculture on the easement area. Audrey sent an email to the Browns stating that the commission would need to discuss this language with the Browns. Sarah Brown sent an email asking for Audrey's concerns. Subsequently, the Browns have withdrawn their request to allow agriculture on the CE.	

End televised portion of the meeting

8. Interdepartmental review	<p>Chappell Tractor Inc submitted a site plan for a 2900sqft addition to the north of the existing building. Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about snow storage • Biofiltration system between the addition and new parking • Vegetated or straw wattles used for soil erosion control rather than silt fencing 	Chris to research and compare 2005 site plan with 2016 site plan to determine if there is additional cleared land to the north of the buildings.
9. Discussion of 2016 goals	<p>Complete update of Conservation Plan Complete update of Policy and Procedure Manual Continued work on NRI with Yvonne Beran Hitchiner Town Forest Management Trail Map update and distribution throughout the community Summary of Town Forest Management Recommendations</p>	Eric volunteered to assemble the various Town Forest Management Recommendations into one document. Audrey and AndyH will work on the Conservation Coordinator job description with review by Chris before presenting to Lincoln Daley
10. Conservation Plan update	Chapters 1 and 2 to review and comment for next month	Members to read Chapters 1&2 which Chris will post in Google Docs

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11. Work session	Set for February 23, 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mile Slip Easement	
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Next Regular Meeting – March 10 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Meeting schedule for 2016: Jan 14; Feb 11; Mar 10; Apr 14; May 12; Jun 9; Jul 14; Aug 11; Sep 15; Oct 13' Nov 17; Dec 15

The order and matters of this meeting are subject to change without further notice.